

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An IP phone device comprising:

an NCU connected to a phone network;

5 a handset that is used for making phone calls with a remote phone device through the NCU and the phone network while exchanging audio signals;

an audio interface responsive to an Internet telephony execution instruction, for inputting and outputting the audio signals for the phone calls to and from a remote IP phone device through Internet via the computer:

10 call-start instruction input means for inputting a call-start instruction for Internet telephony in accordance with user's actions;

15 path switching means for switching a path from the NCU to the audio interface to output an audio signal input through the handset and to input an audio signal output from the handset through the audio interface when the call-start instruction for Internet telephony is input from the call-start instruction input means; and

20 computer control means for outputting control commands to a computer for executing Internet telephony to the computer from the audio interface when the call-start instruction for Internet telephony is input from the call-start instruction input means, the control commands being
25 output in the form of an audio signal, the computer

executing transmission/reception of the audio signals to and from the remote IP phone device.

2. The IP phone device according to claim 1, wherein the computer control means outputs the control commands in the form of a DTMF signal to the computer.

3. The IP phone device according to claim 1, further comprising phone device connection means for connecting a sub-phone device for allowing the sub-phone device to make phone calls with the remote IP phone device, the computer control means receiving the control commands from the sub-phone device through the phone device connection means and transmitting the control commands to the computer in the form of a DTMF signal.

4. The IP phone device according to claim 1, further comprising computer connection means for connecting to the computer connected to Internet to allow the audio signals and other signals to input from and output to the computer through the computer connection means.

5. The IP phone device according to claim 1, wherein the computer is connected through an audio cable.

6. An IP phone system comprising:

a computer connectable to Internet; and

an IP phone comprising:

an NCU connected to a phone network;

a handset that is used for making phone calls with a remote phone device through the NCU and the phone network while exchanging audio signals;

5 an audio interface responsive to an Internet telephony execution instruction, for inputting and outputting the audio signals for the phone calls to and from a remote IP phone device through Internet via the computer;

10 call-start instruction input means for inputting a call-start instruction for Internet telephony in accordance with user's actions;

15 path switching means for switching a path from the NCU to the audio interface to output an audio signal input through the handset and to input an audio signal output from the handset through the audio interface when the call-start instruction for Internet telephony is input from the call-start instruction input means; and

20 computer control means for outputting control commands to the computer for executing Internet telephony to the computer from the audio interface when the call-start instruction for Internet telephony is input from the call-start instruction input means, the control commands being output in the form of an audio
25 signal, the computer executing transmission/reception

of the audio signals to and from the remote IP phone device.

7. The IP phone system according to claim 6, wherein the computer control means outputs the control commands in the form of a DTMF signal to the computer.

8. The IP phone system according to claim 6, further comprising phone device connection means for connecting a sub-phone device for allowing the sub-phone device to make phone calls with the remote IP phone device, the computer control means receiving the control commands from the sub-phone device through the phone device connection means and transmitting the control commands to the computer in the form of a DTMF signal.

9. The IP phone system according to claim 6, further comprising computer connection means for connecting to the computer connected to Internet to allow the audio signals and other signals to input from and output to the computer through the computer connection means.

10. The IP phone system according to claim 6, wherein the computer is connected through an audio cable.

11. A storage medium storing an Internet telephony program for installing into a computer, comprising a program for implementing communication processing entailed by an Internet telephony in accordance with control commands in the form of a DTMF signal received from an IP phone device connected to the computer.